

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 /061 W

-----140933Z 031622 /12

R 140812Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2069

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CZ, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET PARTY SECRETARY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

1. CPSU CC SECRETARY IVAN KAPITONOV ARRIVED IN PRAGUE FEBRUARY 8 AT HEAD OF A DELEGATION CONSISTING OF CPSU PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS AND SERGEI KOLESNIKOV, CHIEF OF A SECTOR OF THE CPSU CC INTERNATIONAL POLICY SECTION. THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT, DESCRIBED AS BEING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CPSU-CPCZ PLAN FOR INTERPARTY RELATIONS, IS TO EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE IN POLITICAL ORGANIZING WORK. CPCZ SECRETARIES JAN BARYL AND CESTIMIR LOVETINSKY ARE ACTING AS HOSTS.

2. KAPITONOV'S INVOLVEMENT WITH PERSONNEL CHANGES IN SOVIET PARTY ORGANIZATIONS HAS LED SOME DIPLOMATS AND FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS HERE TO SPECULATE THAT HIS VISIT IS CONNECTED

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WITH CHARTER 77 AND PUTATIVE SOVIET DISPLEASURE WITH THE LEADERSHIP'S HANDLING OF THAT ISSUE, WHICH MIGHT REQUIRE A PERSONNEL SHUFFLE. THE DELEGATION, HOWEVER, APPEARS TO BE FOLLOWING A TYPICAL SCHEDULE, WHICH HAS INCLUDED A VISIT TO LOCAL PARTY HQ AND A STEEL MILL IN THE NORTHERN BOHEMIAN CITY OF CHOMUTOV, A VISIT TO SLOVAKIA FOR TALKS WITH SLOVAK FIRST SECRETARY LENART AND A TOUR OF A COOPERATIVE FARM, AND TALKS WITH

PARTY OFFICIALS IN PRAGUE.

3. COMMENT: IT IS INTERESTING THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS AGENCY CTK IS TAKING PAINS TO EMPHASIZE THAT THIS VISIT IS JUST ROUTINE--NOT A CAUSE FOR CONCERN. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT KAPITONOV MUST BE TAKING A CLOSE LOOK AT THE MANNER IN WHICH THE PARTY IS HANDLING ITS CONFRONTATION OVER HUMAN RIGHTS WITH THE CHARTER 77 GROUP. SINCE THE TOP PARTY-STATE LEADERSHIP APPEARS GENERALLY UNITED ON CURRENT TACTICS FOR COPING WITH THE DISSIDENTS, WE DOUBT THAT KAPITONOV WOULD SEE A NEED FOR A MAJOR HIGH-LEVEL RESHUFFLE, THOUGH SOME PERSONNEL CHANGES MIGHT POSSIBLY TAKE PLACE AT LESSER LEVELS BEFORE LONG.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: PARTY LEADERS, VISITS, PARTY MEETINGS, PARTY ORGANIZATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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